



Community Parking Program

In order to provide residents with additional off-street parking, Vice Mayor Lowenthal and the City of Long Beach established a Community Parking Program to assist businesses and churches in setting up parking programs that meet their needs. Lot owners will determine the rules and fees for parking. The City will assist in sharing ideas on how to manage lots, publicizing their availability and making the lot owners' generosity known to the community.

Here are some Frequently Asked Questions about this program:

How much can I charge for parking? The rate you charge for parking is at your discretion. We can let you know what similar lots in your area charge.

How should I pick who can park in the lot? Who parks in your lot is your decision. You could choose neighbors, members of your congregation or customers. You could also use a lottery system. Whatever best suits your needs. Any car off the street opens up a spot for someone else in the community to park.

How can I protect myself against liability if someone gets hurt on my property? Anyone parking on your lot could be required to sign an agreement including a release of liability to participate. We have examples from other lot owners.

What can I do if people don't move their cars by the time I need to use the lot? Your parking agreement should clearly communicate your hours and consequences of noncompliance. You may consider contacting the offending parker or leave a notice of noncompliance on their vehicle as a warning. If necessary, you could enlist private towing companies to remove vehicles at the vehicle owners' expense.

I need to use part of the lot. How could that work? You decide when, where and how many spaces you wish to make available. You may wish to stagger the number of spaces available in to the evening. Parking spaces can then be identified using signage, striping or numbers to designate any part of your lot that you wish to open to parking.

I have some after-hours events, for which I want the lot to be open for participants. How can I make sure nobody is using the lot for parking during that time? You determine the hours of overnight parking in your lot. If your events are relatively infrequent, simply include in the contract a provision to close the lot on designated nights; with 30-day notice provided to parkers of the date parking will be unavailable.

How do I tell if other residents start using the lot? You may sell parking permits or stickers to identify cars participating in your parking program. Because these permits are registered, they can be crosschecked with license plates to make sure that those who paid are the ones parking in the lot.

What is the best way to collect fees from those I allow to park in the lot? If you prefer not to collect fees yourself, there are private on-line parking management systems allowing you to collect payments in a variety of forms. There is a fee for the service.

What if I decide later that I don't want anyone using my lot anymore? Include language in your parking agreement that allows either party to cancel within 30 days notice.

What is the City's goal for the program? Make more parking available. Many spaces around the City are only used for part of the day. A parking space left empty for even part of day is a wasted opportunity. The goal is to move vehicles from the street to those unused spaces around the community. Every car that moves from the street opens up a parking space while improving traffic and pedestrian safety by reducing the number of vehicles endlessly circling the block

Additional Contact Information:

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